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FRANK L. HOOGS.....MANAGER.  
TUESDAY.....OCTOBER 9, 1906

**The Liquor Question**

The Star today begins the publication of a series of articles written at the request of the Agitation Committee of the Anti-Saloon League, on the Liquor Question. These articles will appear in The Star each Tuesday until the November election.

The Anti-Saloon League is not alone in believing that the liquor question is a burning and an important one in this Territory, and one that calls for thorough-going, but well considered legislation. The same feeling has been voiced in many quarters, including even some of the liquor dealers' organizations. It is to bring the matter vividly before the voters while the choice of members of the legislature is still in their hands, that these articles and their publication are asked for by the committee. The object, as The Star understands it, is not, primarily, to secure harmony of opinion, but to stimulate thought and concern for so vital a matter to the end that voters in selecting the candidates for whom they will vote, will give some consideration to their attitude on this question. It is not to secure men committed to any specific handling of the question, but to secure men who will give it sincere and serious consideration.

**Reassuring Sentiment**

It is a matter considerably reassuring, that the general tone of public sentiment, as it is expressed in the mainland papers, is not in favor of the annexation of Cuba. The Literary Digest has briefed the newspaper expression of the country in the following:

"Cuba must work out its own salvation," says the Baltimore News, expressing thus in brief the decision of perhaps the major part of the American press. Some paper there are, however, who agree with the Boston Journal that "the United States may have to straighten out things in Cuba before this trouble is over." And yet others are even more decided. The Philadelphia Inquirer, for instance, says that "it is not to be denied that the men who have taken up arms against the Palma government have a number of substantial grievances," and that "they are fighting now for the right of suffrage, and their insurrection has the same justification as the insurrection against the tyranny of Spain." "Cuba ought to have been annexed to the United States in the first place," continues The Inquirer, "and to that conclusion it must come at last." Similarly the Chicago Tribune, while acknowledging that "this country has an abundance of perplexing domestic problems to deal with," and that "it is not ambitious for a territory of Cuba, which would be insistent on Statehood," is forced to grant, reluctantly, that there can hardly be an escape from annexation if the Cubans shall prove that they are unable to give due protection to the vast material interests which are concentrated in Cuba.

Most of the editorial comment is decidedly conservative, however. "It will be wise to go slowly in this Cuban affair," says the Chicago Journal, and the Philadelphia Ledger makes this plea for the independence of Cuba:

"If the Cubans are ever to have a stable government, they must work it out for themselves. This country is bound to protect them from foreign aggression, but is equally bound itself to respect their independence. We want no more dependencies, and we could not, at the present stage of political development, admit Cuba as one of the United States. In this we believe American opinion to be practically unanimous, and we do not doubt that the policy of the Government will be persistently in accord with it."

The New York Journal of Commerce has "no sympathy for the Cuban rebels," believing that "the problem of self-government must be worked out by peaceable means or self-government will not last."

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat is one of the papers which hold that annexation is inevitable—"not only inevitable, but that it can not be postponed many years longer." And the Washington Post is even more in a hurry. "Why does the President hesitate?" it asks.

In Cuba the desire for our intervention is apparently confined to the insurgent party. "They seem to have expected us to take fire at their first call to arms and interfere at once in their behalf," says the Washington Star. "Instead of that," The Star continues, "sentiment generally has been with the Palma Government." The possible incentive of the insurrection is found by a number of papers in this very desire for American intervention, followed by possible annexation of the island. The Boston Herald puts it thus:

"It would not be strange if there were a financial syndicate behind the Cuban revolutionists. If Cuba could be annexed to this country and Cuban sugar and tobacco could be brought in duty free it would give a value to Cuban land far greater than the real estate now possesses."

**The Black Hundred**

No one who has read the dispatches from Russia, no matter how casually, can have failed to note the not infrequent mention of the "Black Hundred," and perhaps to wonder what sort of an organization it is and what its objects are. The Committees of Safety which are also frequently mentioned likewise furnish subject for curiosity as to their organization and purpose. A third enigma which these dispatches contain is furnished in the massacres of Jews, which have occurred so often, with the charges and counter-charges, first that these massacres were prompted by the police or the government, and again by the revolutionists or terrorists. According to correspondence from Russia, every city has its Committee of Safety and also its Black Hundred, but their work is quite different and, in general, antagonistic. In fact the Committees of Safety have become so powerful, that they are said to have been initiated by these so-called "Black Hundred" for their own nefarious ends. "Black Hundred," are thus described: "In Russia, when a man has been convicted twice of a felony his passport is marked and he is sent back to his native community without hope of ever again engaging in the world's affairs. He is a burden to his village. He eats or starves as opportunity offers. He is accursed. He has joined the Black Hundred. It is to these outcasts," according to this authority, "that the authorities turn in their crusade against the Jews. They are all marked men. The word is passed round that, if on a certain day these jail-birds care to loot the Jewish quarter the police will not interfere. Then follows a Bielostok massacre. But these men hold no guarantee of protection, no safe-conduct from the police; the temporary encourage-

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ment by the police is enough to incite them to loot."

On the other hand are the Committees of Safety and Defence, which mark for doom these "Black Hundred" as they do all offenders against their rules. The secrecy of their organization has proved effective, and, of a typical Committee, a correspondent writes the following information: "To each trusted member is verbally given a telephone number. In the event of attack by the police or by the roughs of the Black Hundred, he calls upon that number for succor. The number called passes the demand on to another, and so, from circle to circle, with incredible swiftness, the cry reaches to the Committee, and relief parties are despatched. It is said that any member may bring to his aid a force of men armed with knives and revolvers within ten minutes of the first alarm. No member knows anything but his own number, which is never written down, and which he is bound on oath never to communicate. The ramifications of the Committee are a mystery to the police. The Committee exercises many strange functions in addition to the acts which are aimed at the government. It has set itself to regulate hours of labor and rates of pay. It has dictated its terms to factory owners and forced them at the muzzle of the revolver. Many factories are closed. Many factory owners are bankrupt because the Committee would not allow them to close." These descriptions will afford a fair idea of the imperia in imperio existing in the leading Russian cities, which produce the

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